

HA-1841
1925
Bel Air
Private

The Wells House, 438 S. Main St., faces east on a corner lot in Kenmore in a block that is rapidly going commercial. It is in the process of being renovated for commercial use. It is a 3 bay clapboard bungalow painted blue with white trim and darker blue door and paneled shutters that look original. Front and rear dormers have shed roofs. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sash replacements, doubled except in the north bay of the rear dormer. A large, hip-roofed single story addition with long rectangular windows and wooden access ramp and stairs to the second story have been added in the renovation.

The early 1920s saw three new additions to the Town of Bel Air: Fulford Park (1922), Ingleside (1923), and Kenmore (1924). In each case the lots were sold at auction. Kenmore was named for Harry Hanway's Kenmore dairy farm which was the land being developed. The Wells House, built in 1925 for auto dealer J. Myrckle Wells, is a clapboard bungalow typical of the kind being built around Town in the mid-1920s.

FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

3. Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

 x 11. Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

 12. Modern Period 1930 - present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme:

2. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community
Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Architecture

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function and Use: Private Residence

Known Design Source: unknown

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HA-1841

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Wells House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 438 South Main St. n/a not for publication

city, town Bel Air vicinity of congressional district 3rd

state MD county Harford

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u>X</u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u>X</u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Investment Properties Joint Venture c/o Lynch Builders

street & number 800 S. Main St. telephone no.: no listing

city, town Bel Air state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 1529

street & number folio 780

city, town Bel Air state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. RA-134

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing resource count: one

The Wells House, 438 S. Main St., faces east on a corner lot in Kenmore in a block that is rapidly going commercial. It is in the process of being renovated for commercial use. Built in 1925, it is a 3 bay clapboard bungalow painted blue with white trim and darker blue door and paneled shutters that look original. Front and rear dormers have shed roofs. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sash replacements, doubled except in the north bay of the rear dormer. A large, hip-roofed single story addition with long rectangular windows and wooden access ramp and stairs to the second story have been added in the renovation.

The interior was not accessible.

8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1841

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1925 Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The early 1920s saw three new additions to the Town of Bel Air: Fulford Park (1922), Ingleside (1923), and Kenmore (1924). In each case the lots were sold at auction. Kenmore was named for Harry Hanway's Kenmore dairy farm which was the land being developed. The Wells House, built in 1925 for auto dealer J. Myrckle Wells, is a clapboard bungalow typical of the kind being built around Town in the mid-1920s.

The house is currently being renovated for commercial use. The large addition to the rear and the access ramp and outside stairs spoil the effect of the bungalow somewhat.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA-1841

Harford County Land Records.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Bel AirQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 1303 in the Town of Bel Air, 11,625 sq. ft.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Dr. Marilyn M. Larew</u>		
organization		date	<u>7-15-93</u>
street & number	<u>RD 1, Box 219</u>	telephone	<u>717-993-3557</u>
city or town	<u>New Park</u>	state	<u>PA 17352</u>

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MAILED
JUL 20 1993
CRO...

HA-1841
Wells House
438 S. Main St.
Bel Air, MD 21014

owner: Investment Properties Joint Venture

1529/780 1 Feb 1989
 438 S. Main St., Inc.
 to
 Investment Properties Joint Venture
 \$160,000
 lots 19, 20, 39, 40

1451/3 10 Dec 1987
 Rose Sostrin
 to
 438 S. Main St., Inc
 135,000
 Rebecca Reiser died 1 Oct 1977

344/254 3 July 1950
 Frank H. Jacobs, Jr., unmarried
 to
 Rebecca Reiser and Rose Sostrin

344/252 3 July 1950
 Rebecca Reiser, widow
 to
 Frank Jacobs
 these straw deeds are to get Rose Sostrin's name on the
 deed. Louis Reiser had died.

263/100 16 Oct 1940
 Charles Gilbert Cooley, trustee
 to
 Louis Reiser and Rebecca
 property sale resulted from equity case 4/#10656/36
 Leah Getz Gabbe vs Rhona Jean Getz and Mary Lou Getz
 Meyer H. Getz died intestate 24 Apr 1935 with heirs
 Leah Getz, the widow, subsequently married Henry W.
 Gabbe, and 2 children Rhona Jean Getz and Mary Lou Getz

211/175 27 Nov 1928
 J. Myrckle Wells and Amelia
 to
 Meyer H. Getz

189/473 25 Sept 1924
 Robert H. Heighe and Anne McE.
 to
 J. Myrckle Wells

NA-1841

164/420

22 Aug 1919

Harry D. Hanway and Hazel E.

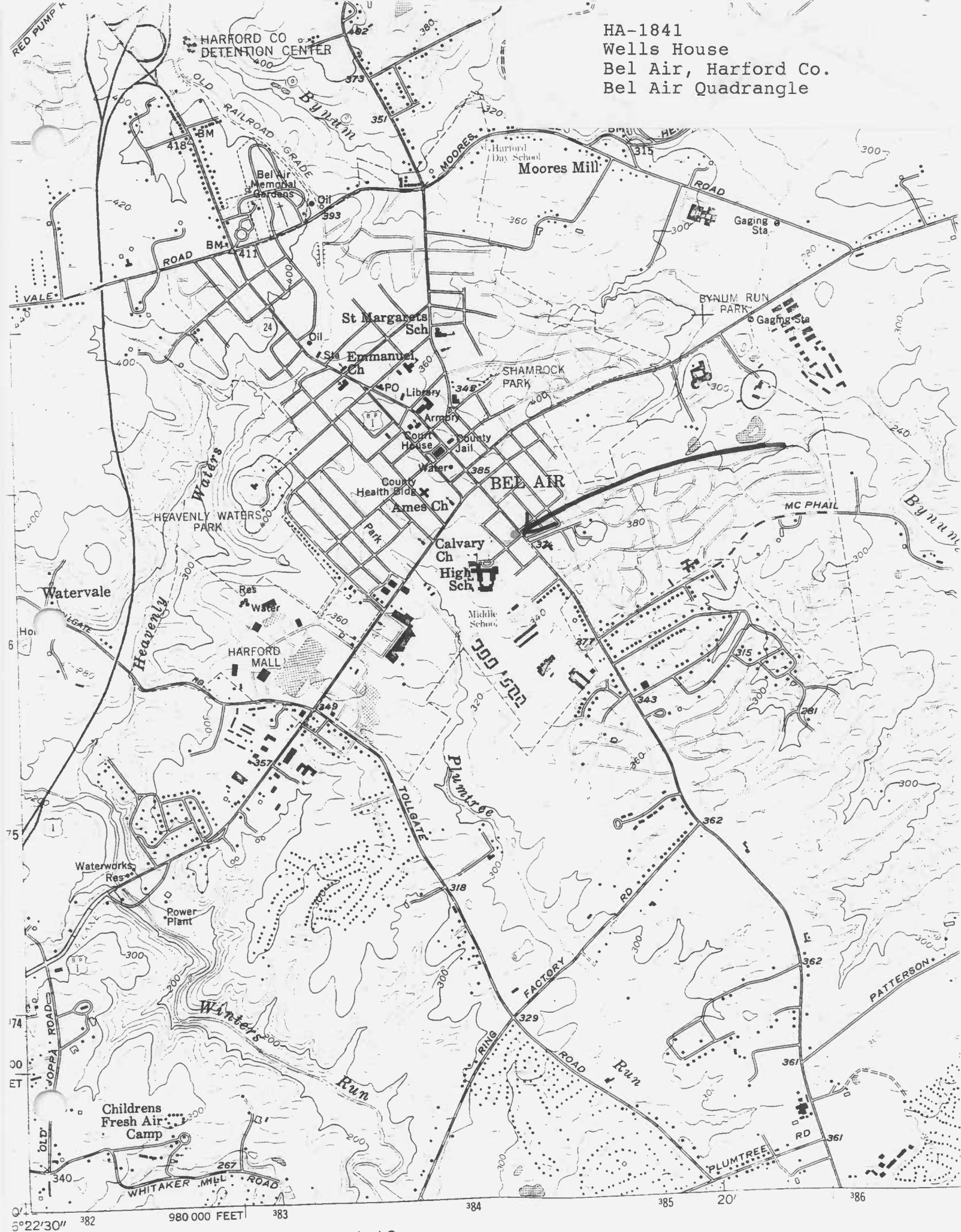
to

Robert H. Heighe and Anne NCE.

99 a. of Kenmore Farm

assumes 2 mortgages totalling \$9000

HA-1841
Wells House
Bel Air, Harford Co.
Bel Air Quadrangle





44-1901
107
202
C.D.F. 42
202
202
202
202
202
202

438 S. MAIN ST
BEL AIR



6/2 10:01

LOU L. H. HILL 33

21

CDF 274

6/93

W. J. 100

100

438 S. MAIN ST
BEL AIR